import of gold and silver under the Export and Import Policy 1992-97; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the norms ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Under the Export & Import Policy 1992–97, gold and silver in any form are covered by the Negative List of Imports. Import is permitted under the Duty Exemption Scheme and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Schemes as laid down in Chapter VII and VIII respectively of the Exim Policy. Import of gold is also permitted by specified categories of exporters against special import licences. In addition, import of silver and spinnerettes mainly made of gold is also regulated in terms of provisions contained in Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 106(N-30)/92-97 and Public Notice No. 107(PN)/92–97 both dated 1st March, 1993 copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Recruitment to Indian Trade Service

3845. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that future recruitment to Indian Trade Service has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the posts in the DGFT's Organisation continued to be filled up by deputationists;

(d) whether Indian Trade Service Officers were considered for the post of Export Commissioner, if not, the reasons therefor and reasons for considering candidates only from one service; and

(e) whether it is a fact that officers of CSS were appointed as Export Commissioner in the past as per Recruitment Rules now in force ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to stop recruitment to Indian Trade Service through Civil Service Examination till 1994 (inclusive of 1994 Examination) keeping in view the changed role of the DGFT Organisation and is proposed restructuring.

(c) and (d) Posts in the DGFT are to be filled in accordance with the relevant Recruitment Rules. The post of Export Commissioner, is also to be filled under the Central Staffing Scheme, in accordance with the prescribed Recruitment Rules. At present Officers, of ITS do not meet the criterion stipulated therein.

(e) Yes, Sir, CSS Officers were appointed to the post of Export Commissioner as per Rules in force at the relevant time.

Pay Commission's Recommendations for its Officers

3846. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2618 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1992 and state the action taken by Government to post the ITS Officers as the heads of the four Regional Offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, as per the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Attention is invited to the answer given to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2618 replied on 17th December, 1991. These posts are being filled according to the Recruitment Rules in force.

Differences with USA on Intellectual Property Rights

3847. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are deep differences with USA on issues like intellectual property rights, pharmaceutical chemicals and food;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of steps taken to reduce such differences on these issues;